

Message Text

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46

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05

SAM-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /094 W

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R 111057Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3932

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 1169

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MR SS UN

SUBJECT: UN COMMITTEE OF 24 COMMISSION DEPARTS MAURITANIA

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 1107 (NOTAL)

1. COMMISSION FROM UN COMMITTEE OF 24 VISITED MAURITANIA
JUNE 4 TO JUNE 9 FOLLOWING ITINERARY OUTLINED
REFTEL. UNLIKE THEIR VISITS TO MOROCCO AND ALGERIA
COMMISSION DID NOT ISSUE COMMUNIQUE PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FROM
MAURITANIA.

2. NOUAKCHOTT INFORMATION, MAURITANIAN GOVERNMENT NEWSSHEET,
CARRIED ARTICLE BY "SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT" WHO TRAVELLED
WITH COMMISSION. CITING OBSERVERS IN THE LOCALITIES VISITED,
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT WROTE, "FIRST IMPRESSION WAS
THAT THERE WAS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE (MAURITANIAN)
POPULATION AND THAT (POPULATION) WHICH IS STILL UNDER
THE DOMINATION OF COLONIALISM". THE ARTICLE CONTINUES THAT
THIS LACK OF DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN THE POPULATIONS AND
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GEOGRAPHY OF THE SAHARA AND MAURITANIA IS THE REASON WHY,

IN MAURITANIA, "THERE EXIST NEITHER SAHAROUIS COMMUNITIES, IN THE CLASSIC SENSE OF THE WORD, NOR REFUGEES, BECAUSE THE SAHAROUIS LIVE IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY (MAURITANIA)".

3. CHIEF OF DELEGATION, SIMON AKE, CONCLUDED AT END OF VISIT THAT IT IS PREMATURE AT THIS STAGE TO DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS WHATSOEVER. HE ADDED THAT IN COURSE OF VISIT TO FRONTIER AREA, COMMISSION HAD CONTACT WITH BOTH MAURITANIAN AND SAHARAN POPULATION AND WAS EXPOSED TO VIEWS OF ALL POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVING INTEREST IN PROBLEM. AKE SAID COMMISSION MET TWICE WITH PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH AND HAD LONG SESSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MOUKNASS.

4. SPANISH EMBOFF TELLS US COMMISSION REQUESTED AND WAS GRANTED INTERVIEW WITH F POLISAGGO DURING VISIT TO NOUADHIBOU JUNE 7. F POLASARIO WAS REPORTEDLY ONLY SPANISH SHARA "LIBERATION GROUP" WHICH COMMISSION WISHED TO SEE. SUBSTANCE OF MEETING IS UNKNOWN.

5. IN DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR JUNE 10, UNDP RESREP AP REES REPORTED (A) AKE AND, TO LESSER EXTENT, HIS COMPANIONS ARE CLEARLY DEDICATED TO "SELF-DETERMINATION NOW" LINE. THEY ARE NOT INTERESTED IN LISTENING TO OTHER ALTERNATIVES; (B) WHEN AKE AND COMMISSIONMEMBERS ASKED "WHERE ARE YOUR SAHARAN REFUGEES?" MAURITANIANS REPLIED THAT THERE ARE NO SAHARAN REFUGEES AS SUCH IN MAURITANIA. MAURITANIANS EXPLAINED THAT REAL ESTATE INVOLVED BELONGED AS MUCH TO THE PEOPLE WHO HAD COME ACROSS ARTIFICIAL LINE FROM SAHARA AS TO THE MAURITANIANS WHO CURRENTLY LIVE ON IT. WHOLE AREA IS ONE COUNTRY, TEMPORARILY DIVIDED, BELONGING EQUALLY TO ALL NATIONALS. MAURITANIANS ASSERTED THAT SAHARANS ARE NOT CONSIDERED REFUGEES JUST BECAUSE THEY HAPPEN TO BE LOCATED TEMPORARILY ON OTHER SIDE OF THE "BORDER"; AND (C) AKE DEPARTED NOUAKCHOTT FOR ABIDJAN TO REPORT TO PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY. OTHER MEMBERS OF COMMISSION REMAINED IN DAKAR.

6. AP REES ALSO PASSED ALONG FOLLOWING COMMENTS BY BRITISH EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF COMMISSION: (A) EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IS CONVINCED FROM WHAT HE SAW IN MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA THAT BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE MADE A DEAL FOR THE PARTITION OF THE SAHARA. HE SUGGESTED

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THAT THE ALGERIANS MAY ALSO HAVE AGREED TO SUCH A PLAN, ALTHOUGH GLE WAS MUCH LESS CERTAIN ABOUT ALGERIAN ROLE; (B) BRITISH OFFICIAL SAID COMMISSION CONCLUDED FOLLOWING VISIT TO MOROCCO THAT ESTIMATES OF APPROXIMATELY 25,000 MOROCCAN TROOPS IN SOUTHERN PORTION OF COUNTRY WERE PROBABLY CORRECT; AND (C) HE STATED THAT MOROCCANS HAD SPENT ENORMOUS SUM ON PREPARATIONS FOR RECEPTION OF UN COMMISSION, ESTIMATING THAT GOM PUT OUT VICINITY OF \$1 MILLION. HE CITED EXAMPLE OF ORGANIZED RALLIES INVOLVING AS MANY

AS 30,000 PEOPLE (28,500 OF WHOM WERE MOROCCANS AND NOT SHARANS).

HANDYSIDE

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